

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1; and

(b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

2. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

3. cancelled

4. cancelled

5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the nucleotide sequence of the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or claim 2.

7. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or claim 2 and a nucleotide sequence encoding a heterologous polypeptide.

8. (previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 or claim 2.

9. (previously presented) The vector of claim 8, which is an expression vector.

10. (previously presented) A isolated_host cell transfected with the expression vector of claim 9.

11. (previously presented) A method of producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 10 in an appropriate culture medium to, thereby, produce the polypeptide.

12-43 (cancelled)